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30 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary, OC Equipment Board

SUBJECT : Revised Criteria for Utilization of SG-70
and SG-75 Exciters

I. PROBLEM:

Excessive amounts of manpower and travel time required to maintain the SG-70 exciter operational in OC field stations must be reduced or eliminated.

II. DISCUSSION:

In recent years, the equipment program recommendations submitted from various Areas have criticized the SG-70 as an exciter for field stations. This criticism stemmed from three basic reasons.

A. The SG-70 is not in the TECHREQ program, and, therefore, is not supported by "repair & return" from Headquarters.

B. Excessive maintenance must be performed by Area technicians.

C. Excessive travel is required to keep the SG-70 operational.

III. Field activities have attempted on numerous occasions to program SG-75A/B for the purpose of replacing SG-70's in field stations. Requests for these actions were in all instances based on the complaints listed above. In all but a very few isolated cases, Headquarters turned down requests to replace SG-70's for reasons including, but not limited to:

A. The normal 12-year life cycle requirement for Staff Network equipment had not been met. The SG-70 replacement under this criteria is not due until FY-79 through FY-83.

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B. In view of inflation and holding the budget line, the 12-year life cycle has now been extended to the point wherein replacement is now projected at almost 20 years; i.e., SG-70 replacement would now take place in FY-87 through FY-91.

C. OC has a number of other types of HF equipments which have been in the system for 14 to 20 years and should be replaced before the SG-70 exciter which has been in the system for only five to eight years.

- IV. We have now, in effect, reached a stalemate. The funding part of the problem was temporarily solved by not programming replacements for the SG-70. However, the inordinate amount of man-hours and travel time required in the field to maintain the SG-70 operational is still present. This represents a continuing and increasing problem for the OC overseas Areas that are faced with gradual increases of work load in maintaining an ever-aging HF network with no relief in sight.
- V. In view of the fact that increases in funding and manpower are highly unlikely, it is recommended that the OC Equipment Board consider approving the recommendations listed below. They represent partial answers to a problem, with its only other solution being a combination of more funds and/or manpower.
- VI. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Relocate, where feasible, SG-70 exciters from field stations to base stations in exchange for SG-75A/B.

B. Since a remote control capability is a desirable feature at base stations, any SG-70 relocated to base stations should be used only for ARP and covert circuit requirements. Thus, an appropriate number of SG-75's should be retained at base stations for on-line circuits to maintain remoting capabilities as required.

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C. Since the maintenance and manpower problems relating to the SG-70 varies from Area to Area, it is recommended that the exchange of SG-70's with SG-75's be left to the discretion of Area Chiefs as to the stations to be affected and the number to be exchanged.

VII. PREDICTABLE RESULTS:

Approval of the above recommendations should make possible the following results:

A. Substantially reduce maintenance problems at field stations.

B. Field stations using SG-75's would be in the TECHREQ program, and, therefore, receive support from Headquarters through the R&R program.

C. Substantially reduce maintenance time in the field station and travel time to the field station for Area techs.

D. Place the SG-70's in base stations where technician manpower is more readily available.

E. Allow the Area Chief the flexibility of action, thus allowing action he deems best for his Area.



Deputy Chief, OC-E

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Attachment:

Location Summary of SG-70, SG-75A,
and SG-75B Distribution 3

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied